Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00554 170927Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------028747 170929Z /21
R 170537Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5470

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 0554

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS2
TAGS: MNUC, PK, US, FR
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT

1. IT IS ELEVEN DAYS SINCE THE INITIAL STORY APPEARED IN LE MONDE SAYING THAT FRANCE HAD PROPOSED THAT THE PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT SHOULD BE A "CO-PROCESSING" RATHER THAN A PUREX PLANT. SUBSEQUENT AFP AND LE MONDE STORIES SEEM TO BE BASED ON GOF BACKGROUNDING, BUT WE HAVE SEEN NO DIRECT GOF STATEMENT. WE HAVE REPORTED WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OF THE LOCAL REACTION IN PAKISTAN.

2. IN ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIAL USG WORD, AND EXTRAPOLATING FROM THESE PUBLIC SOURCES, I DRAW THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS ON WHICH DEPT AND PARIS WILL WISH TO COMMENT:

A. GOF STILL HOPES TO AVOID DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEBATE OVER PAKISTANI REPROCESSING PLANT, AT LEAST UNTIL MARCH ELECTION.

B. GOF IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF REFUSAL TO SUPPLY ORIGINALLY CONTRACTED PUREX PLANT, OR TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT NO SHIPMENTS OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY HAVE BEEN MADE, OR WILL BE MADE, UNDER GLENN AMENDMENT TERMS.

C. IN FACT, IF PRESSED GOF MIGHT DECIDE TO ISSUE WAFFLING STATEMENT ABOUT ITS INTENTIONS, PERHAPS SAYING THAT MATTER IS
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STILL UNDER STUDY, THAT PAKISTANI VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND THAT IN MEANTIME ORIGINAL CONTRACT IS BEING HONORED.

D. THUS PRIOR TO THE MARCH ELECTIONS (AND IF THE PRESENT GOVT LOSES OUT, NOT EVEN THEN) WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET FRENCH ACQUIESCENCE IN EXPLANATIONS TO CONGRESS THAT WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF FREEING UP NEW A.I.D. COMMITMENTS.

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3. IN PAKISTAN WE ARE STILL ADHERING TO PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO DISCUSS FRENCH PROPOSAL WITH PAKISTANIS.

4. SHAH OF IRAN STILL SEEMS TO BE PLAYING GAMES WITH GOP ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT HERE IN CONNECTION WITH HIS VISIT TO INDIA. DEPT AND BILL SULLIVAN (WHO ALREADY KNOWS THE BACKGROUND) SHOULD WEIGH MERITS OF PRIMING SHAH WITH USG VIEWS ON FRENCH PROPOSAL SO THAT IF HE DOES VISIT HERE HE CAN WEIGH IN WITH GOP ALONG HELPFUL LINES HE HAS USED BEFORE. REALIZE SHAH MAY WELL PREFER TO SAVE HIS EXHORTATIONS FOR HIS COMMON MARKET SCHEME. ALSO WE HAVE FRENCH SENSITIVITIES TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BRIEF THE SHAH ON THE BASIS OF THE RECENT NEWS STORIES WITHOUT VIOLATING CONFIDENTIALITY.

5. FRENCH AMB TO PAKISTAN IS IN PARIS ON CONSULTATION (PLANNED BEFORE THE NEWS LEAKS FROM PARIS) AND RETURNS TO ISLAMABAD OVER THE WEEKEND. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT FROM HIM NEXT WEEK.

6. DEPT PLEASE REPEAT THIS TO PARIS AND TEHRAN.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA00554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840163-1804
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780156/aaaabvcf.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3764219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT
TAGS: MNUC, SOPN, PK, US, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/64d2cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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